

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 001137

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EB/TRA/WALKLET  
USEU FOR J. KESSLER

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [FAIR](#) [NL](#)

SUBJECT: DUTCH PESSIMISTIC ABOUT FIRST-STEP U.S.-EU CIVAIR  
AGREEMENT

REF: SECSTATE 91041

1. Econ counselor and econoff delivered reftel demarche to Rene Fennes, head of international relations at the Ministry of Transport. Fennes, who will participate in US-EU civair negotiations in Washington beginning May 10, was pessimistic about the likelihood of a first-step agreement before the US-EU summit in late June. Fennes said he had seen some of his EU colleagues' positions harden, particularly regarding the right of establishment. He singled out the Finns, Swedes and new EU members as being more pragmatic about their positions.

2. Fennes said that he hoped that sufficient progress would be made before the June US-EU summit to lay the basis for further talks during the Dutch presidency and after, following the establishment of a new commission in November. He added that this depended on the negotiators' willingness to agree in principle to further talks, and a positive assessment of the negotiations' progress at the summit. If it appeared there was no possibility of post-summit talks, Fennes confided that he was seriously concerned about the possibility the commission could force renunciations of bilateral agreements.

SOBEL